

JORDAN RIVER COMMISSON
Governing Board – Regular Meeting

Minutes of October 29, 2015

Name	Agency or Organization	Present
Corey Rushton	Board Past-Chair, West Valley City	X
Chris McCandless	Board Chair, Sandy City	X
Rebecca Call	Board Vice-Chair, Saratoga Springs	X
Steve Barnes	City of South Jordan	
Richard Bay	Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District	X
Ralph Becker	Salt Lake City	By Alternate: Lewis Kogan
John Bennett	Office of the Governor	
Bill Colbert	Draper City	
Ben McAdams	Salt Lake County	By Alternate: Julie Peck-Dabbling
Commissioner Jim Smith	Davis County	Barry Burton
Commissioner Larry Ellertson	Utah County	
Jerry Benson	Utah Transit Authority	
Debbie Snow	City of South Salt Lake	
Laura Ault	Division of Forestry Fire State Lands	X
Rep. Rich Cunningham	Utah House of Representatives	
Stan Porter	City of North Salt Lake	Ken Leetham
Trent Staggs	Riverton City	Tish Buroker
Justin Stoker	City of West Jordan	
Tee Tyler	Cottonwood Heights	X
Dan Armstrong	Taylorsville	
Eric Gaddis	Division of Water Quality	X
Aimee Newton	Salt Lake County Council	By Alternate: Adam Gardiner
Scott Peters	Ex-Officio, Jordan River Foundation	X
Alene Bentley	Ex-Officio, Rocky Mountain Power	X
Jon Bronson	Ex-Officio, Zions Bank	
Amy Collins	Ex-Officio, TreeUtah	
Greg Hardy	Ex-Officio, Chevron	X
Michael Horrocks	Ex-Officio, Wasatch Rowing Foundation	X
Soren Simonsen	Ex-Officio, At Large	X
Michael Steele	Ex-Officio, Utah State Fairpark	
Ray Pickup	Ex-Officio, Workers Compensation Fund	
Tim Brown	Ex-Officio, Tracy Aviary	X
Eric Ellis	Ex-Officio, Utah Lake Commission	

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Laura Hanson, Jordan River Commission
Michaela Boothe, Jordan River Commission
Shane Swenson, JVVCD
Frank Roberts, JVVCD

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Jordan River Commission, was held on Thursday October 29, 2015 at 9:00 am at the Sandy City Hall, 10000 South Centennial Boulevard, Sandy, Utah 84070

Chris McCandless, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. He welcomed the Board and thanked everyone for attending. He asked for attendees to introduce themselves.

ITEM 1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Chris McCandless asked if there were any changes to the August 20 , 2015 consent agenda. No changes made

Motion –Mike Horrocks made a motion to approve the agenda and minutes.
Second – Rebecca Call
Vote – Unanimous in favor.

ITEM 2 – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chris McCandless asked Laura Hanson to give the Director's Report.

Laura Hanson thanked the Board for attending and gave an overview of work progress and updates since the last Board meeting:

Volunteer Program: In 2015 over 1,300 volunteers gave nearly 3,000 hours of service. The value of donated labor and donated supplies came to over \$65,500. The JRC began tracking weed removal, (10,800 lbs.) trash removal, (3,100 lbs) and trees/shrubs that have been planted (2,200) along the Jordan River. The volunteer program is valuable and easily attracts people to help.

Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Amendments: Laura displayed the names of 8 cities which already passed these updates in their local governments. She asked other cities that have not yet had the chance to submit a copy of the signature page to get it to her as soon as possible. North Salt Lake had submitted their paperwork and requested that their name be added to the list. Saratoga Springs has nearly completed their paperwork. Only 15 signatories are required for approval.

Legislative Dinner: The Utah Lake Commission and the Jordan River Commission held a legislative dinner in October. It was a great opportunity to thank the legislators for the appropriation money they granted, and inform them of how it was spent.

4500 South Ribbon Cutting: A brief ribbon cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the new bridge at 4500 South.

Upcoming Grant Deadlines: The following grants have upcoming deadlines; Governor's Waypoint Access Grant, DNR's Boater Access Grant, Urban Waters Small Grant, Salt Lake

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County ZAP, and the Wells Fargo Environmental Solutions for Communities Grant. Laura Hanson offered to write a letter of support for those who submitting proposals.

Projects

Open Space Inventory: Over the past year, the JRC has been working to develop an inventory of land parcels along the river corridor. The Salt Lake County survey office gathered zoning data and color-coded a map to distinguish public and private land, areas projected by a conservation easement, and land zoned for open space use. The goal is to work with FFSL to create an online GIS map with many layers of information. It was suggested that the TAC create a list of the top 20 properties to the JRC. Laura also noted that only a few of these properties have conservation easements.

Comprehensive Management Plan: Laura Ault briefly reviewed each of the 6 river classifications, which will be assigned to Jordan River segments. She displayed a preliminary classification map to show how the classifications will be assigned. FFSL will meet with municipalities to answer questions and to make sure everyone is satisfied.

WVC Cottonwood Pond: This is an EPA 5 Star Restoration Grant. Cottonwood Pond is a storm water detention pond in West Valley City. Volunteers from Hunter High School have made various improvements to the pond. A civil and environmental engineer intern from the University of Utah is now working to gather information about water detention and water levels so wetland plants can be properly planted around the pond.

No action taken. Discussion only.

ITEM 3 – Technical Advisory Committee Report

The TAC met in Riverton City for a fieldtrip on October 2, 2015. The wetland area is currently dry due to nearby drainage problems. She said the committee members have had many discussions on improving this feature. Educational support from FFSL and grant funding will to help resolve some of the issues in this area.

ITEM 4 – Continued Business - none

ITEM 5a – Large Grant Subcommittee Funding Recommendations

Chris McCandless asked Laura Hanson to introduce this topic.

In 2015, the legislature approved a \$1 million appropriation for improvements to the Jordan River and Utah Lake. A subcommittee of the JRC Governing Board reviewed the proposals, and made recommendations on funding all 11 Jordan River project proposals. She reviewed each of the projects as well as a chart containing the review scores, awarded funding, and contracting agreement provisions.

Rebecca Call mentioned that Laura Hanson and the subcommittee were incredibly meticulous about meeting all of the State requirements so funding can be requested in the future. Chris McCandless said the funding chart that Laura displayed could serve as a “report card” which could be shown to legislatures to illustrate how all the appropriation money was spent and the amount of matched funding. Christ McCandless suggested new subcommittee members be chosen to rank future projects for funding.

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Motion – Soren Simonsen made a motion to approve the recommendations from the subcommittee for the large grant award.

Second – Alene Bentley

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

ITEM 6a – Presentation: Frank Roberts, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District, Jordan River Narrows Pipeline

Frank Roberts said the Central Utah Water Conservancy District purchased water shares from Geneva Steel after it closed down. The Central Pipeline Project, which is 6 miles long, begins at the North Turnout Vault in Saratoga Springs and runs along the river and connects to a pipeline at 150th South in SLC. This Central Pipeline Project allowed for the completion of the Jordan River Parkway Trail. A few spots along the trail will have shared access for service trucks to access the water vaults.

Richard Bay said he was pleased how Salt Lake County and Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District worked together to accomplish these two major projects.

Corey Rushton commented on the great amount of effort and negotiations required to complete this project.

Chris McCandless complimented the CUWCD and Salt Lake County for a job well done. He asked for Laura Hanson to coordinate a ribbon cutting celebration with Jordan Valley. Richard Bay said they had plans to report this great accomplishment at city council meetings instead of holding an onsite event. He said he would coordinate with Laura Hanson about organizing a celebration.

No action taken. Discussion only.

ITEM 6b – Presentation: Erica Gaddis, Division of Water Quality, Jordan River Water Quality Updates

Erica Gaddis updated the JRC on upcoming water quality issues. The Jordan River is divided into 8 sections when assessed for water quality. They assess their data every 2 years to determine if the water body is meeting standards. She displayed a map showing previously known and new water impairments along the Jordan River.

Julie Peck Dabbling asked why ecoli is being found in so many areas along the Jordan River. Erica Gaddis was uncertain, but guessed it could be septic, pet, wildlife, or other causes.

The lower Jordan River has a dissolved oxygen impairment, which occurs in late summer and is due to low water flow and organic matter. Many questions surrounding this issue still need to be answered; however, they believe an increase of water flow may alleviate the impairment.

Utah passed its first rule on nutrient loads for nitrogen and phosphorus. These nutrients in the water cause algae growth, can disrupt the aquatic system, and become a nuisance to recreational users.

Utah Lake, the Jordan River and the Great Salt Lake are unique water bodies because of their ecology, which makes it especially difficult to determine the appropriate nutrient load levels. Erica said 300 tons of phosphorus enter Utah Lake each year, mostly coming from sewage treatment plants and storm water. The Jordan River has over 600 tons of

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phosphorus entering into it each year. All the phosphorus that has ever been discharged into these water bodies since 1847 has ended up in the Great Salt Lake. The algae blooms do not appear in the Jordan River, however, they do appear in Farmington Bay and other wetland that are fed from the river. In fact, the concentrations of algae in Farmington Bay are off the charts!

Soren Simonsen asked if the algae can have a positive use, such as biofuel. She said it is possible, however, it is difficult to remove it from the water without bursting the cells.

Utah is trying to develop recreational advisory levels for toxic algae blooms, like the ones that have been established in other states. It would help them to determine when it is not safe for people or animals to be in the water, such as was the case a year ago at Utah Lake. She reported that there were no big algae blooms this year as there have been in years past.

It cost \$2.5 million to create a standard for selenium at the Great Salt Lake. Finding a nutrient level for phosphorus and nitrogen will be much more difficult and expensive. Utah Lake is going to be the first project studied because of its higher recreational use, location, and its effect on the Jordan River.

The EPA is pushing to developing nutrient standards. They proposed a rule of 1mg/L total phosphorous to be met by WWTP's within the next 5 years. A few off ramps were created for WWTP's with special circumstances. The average cost to meet these regulations is just over \$1/household. Ultimately, the required phosphorus standard could go as low as .5mg/L.

John Bennett asked about having WWTP's join the JRC. Chris McCandless said it was a good idea.

No action taken. Discussion only.

ITEM 7 – Public Comment Period

Chris McCandless asked if any members of the public would like to address the Board. There were none.

ITEM 8 – Other Business

Chris McCandless asked if any members of the Board had additional business to discuss. He mentioned Rebecca Call is moving and a replacement is necessary. Elections will happen in December.

Chris is looking for assistance to determine who to give an 8 acre plot of land to. It is called the Wood Duck Migratory Bird Refuge. He is looking for assistance from the TAC and the Governing Board.

Chris is holding an election party for all the Sandy City candidates on November 3rd at 6:30pm in the Workers Compensation Building. The Governing Board is invited to attend.

Laura Ault said they made a budget request of \$1.4 million for the Jordan River Trail.

ITEM 9 – CONFIRM NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURN

The next meeting of the Jordan River Commission Governing Board will be in December. Information will be sent out soon when a day and time has been selected.

On motion and second, the meeting was adjourned.

